

**From Merrimack AR-1119, Transcript of Public Hearing for September 30, 2011 Draft Permit**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BOSTON REGION

In the Matter of: PUBLIC HEARING:

RE: NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, MERRIMACK STATION, BOW, NH NPDES PERMIT NO. NH0001465

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive Concord, New Hampshire

Thursday, November 3,

Testimony of Rob Frye, Rockingham Fishing and Hunting Expo

MR. FRYE: Thank you. My name is Rob Frye. And I'd like to thank you for allowing me to speak at this forum. First off, I want to thank you also and respect all the work you have done, you, being the EPA. You know, I definitely respect that. I'm not putting that aside. But, I am going -- I am asked to be here. I decided to be here on a different perspective, from basically, a fisherman's perspective. And let me share a few credentials about myself. I am a New Hampshire resident. Father of two with a loving wife and the founder of the -- what used to be the largest bass fishing organizations that was founded in 1996. I was the president of the New Hampshire Bass Federation for six years. I was a board of director for New Hampshire Lakes Association for two years. And as you mentioned, I am the founder of the Rockingham Fishing and Hunting Expo. I have been bass tournament fishing, since 1993, one time State champion, and two time angler of the year. And I have been commercial saltwater fishing for three years. So, basically, I am a hard core avid angling enthusiast. And I do have a job. I am a software engineer. Basically, I'm a computer geek.

So, I personally fish all year round. And I have been fishing the Hooksett pool of the Merrimack River since 1992 since I first owned a boat. That was almost 20 years ago. And I fish what we call as the Bow power plant, at least six to 12 times a year. And I've even posted YouTube videos with some friends. And you can view these today, where I have been fishing the Bow power plant during Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve, because it's just an excellent fishery.

So, -- you know, so, I have been sharing my personal experiences. And my personal experience is the Bow power plant is an incredible sustaining fishery. And I understand the work that was done as far as the data collected for the slide show. But, you know, I have questions -- I question a lot of that data. I mean, for one, you can't tell me where that data came from or who it came from. There's a lot of dimensions or variables in fishing. You know, the slide that you showed that only four fish were caught, that's definitely a better day of fishing at Hooksett River.

Because I can bring you to places -- I mean, to that Bow power plant and catch sometimes 50 fish a day. And you catch multiple species there. And if you know where the dam is in that section, there is a ton of yellow perch in that area. And I've actually brought an aqua view camera there just to kind of check out the terrain of the area. And, you know, I was very impressed by the amount of white suckers that are there.

So, you know, I question where you're getting your data. I mean, it looks like you guys are looking in the wrong place to be honest with you, because it is incredible fishery. So, the perspective is, you know, this piece of water, this water body, it is the only place in New Hampshire where you can fish all year round from a boat. Because of the rest of the waters, you know, they are pretty much frozen or not accessible. And so, if this closed loop system goes into place, it's going to be unfortunate, because we're going to lose a resource which is the bass fishing. And I think that's about it. I did have more, but, I'm going to submit my paper as well. Thank you.